



STUDENTS' PROBLEMS

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

No. 3

-BY-

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IF GOD TEMPTS NO MAN" can we
rightfully pray: "LEAD US NOT
INTO TEMPTATION" ?

"Kai mā-eisenegkas hāmas eis peirasmon" - "and lead us not in-
to temptation" - Jesus; Matthew 6:13.

Momentarily I wish to continue in the spirit of the previous Stu-
dent-Problems, in an effort to spotlight dark places that TRUTH
MAY REJOICE OUR HEARTS AND SET US FREE!

Literally, I would not dispute the correct rendering of the above
Greek passage, but its spirit VERY MUCH SO!

Ever since but a lad, and for many years previous to my 'conver-
sion' (thru and TO the Lamb of God), I could never pray my Heav-
enly Father "lead me not into temptation." As I see it, such a
prayer is abominable! (IF another sees it differently, I have no
argument. The LIGHT we have determines our perspective of
many questions.)

Are you a parent? Have you a youngster? If so, would you say to
the same: "THOU SHALT NOT (do so and so)", and immediat-
ely proceed to place dire temptation in the way of the youngster ?
And lie in wait - so to speak - to nab the youngster in a moment
of its weakness - to inflict upon your offspring SORE PUNISH-
MENT and unmercifully, that its pain and scars might last thru-
out its every day? - Well hardly! (if you are normal).

Yet THAT is precisely what we impute unto God by the above
words of the prayer, IN LIGHT OF THE COMMON CHRISTIAN
TEACHINGS! I repeat, HOW ABOMINABLE!

James, the son of Mary and Joseph - blood brother of our Lord -
wrote: "Let no one say --- I AM TEMPTED OF GOD -----neither
tempteth He any man," Js. 1:13.

THE Christian believer who accepts the words of James as if they
were from God, becomes inconsistent to pray God to not lead him
into temptation!

In the Greek - even as in English - some words have several
shades of meaning. In its fully radical sense, the above "eisen-
egkas" means to lead or CARRY INTO. Therefore I admit t h a t

the A.V. has literally rendered it correctly. Yet in the large Oxford Greek lexicon I have, it also defines it as INTRODUCE; also to "bring in with one."

THAT is the very thing which James sets forth in v. 14 wherein he says that one is carried away by or thru his own lusts (resident within).

I have also searched the Scripture for other instances of the same word and its usage. Variant forms thereof are found in a few places, some of which fall into the category of LEAD or CARRY INTO. But in Acts 17:20 we find the Athenians saying to Paul (in the above word): "For thou BRINGEST certain strange things to our ears." Let us now substitute its other shade of meaning by making it read: "For thou INTRODUCETH to us certain strange (things)---." THIS that we find far more in keeping with common sense and good usage. Paul had brot no things with him; but LIGHT had he been shown and TRUTH had he received. Therefore, this LIGHT and TRUTH did he "INTRODUCE" to the Athenians. Or, should we say, he INTRODUCED the Athenians to the LIGHT and TRUTH which had been given him. With this shade of meaning in mind, let us return to the words of our Lord: "INTRO-DUCE us not to temptation--." That is, let us not get acquainted therewith! THAT makes sense! And dishonors not our God!

In God's perfect plan, there is no scheme by which to make us "fall" thru, or even into temptation. But rather, He wills that there should be GROWTH leading to STRENGTH; that there should be available LIGHT leading to UNDERSTANDING (of His TRUTH): that, thru the combination of STRENGTH and UNDERSTANDING, nothing shall "tempt" us. And unto the perfect consummation of THAT detail of His Will and Plan did Christ the Redeemer come. That, thru the mystic alchemy of His REDEEMPTIVE WORK we should become so INTEGRATED IN HIS BEING that "temptation" ceases to be a word in our personal vocabulary! Personally speaking: Am I "tempted" to smoke? NO! I was brot up in FRESH AIR and also taught the folly of BURNING UP that for which we labor, as well as to the injury of our bodies. Wherefore, my whole being convulses and recoils from the stench of the weed. "Temptation" is not there (for me) . . . Am I "tempted" to get drunk? I grew up in a family where A CLEAR and SOBER BRAIN was honored and exalted. I was shown the shamefulness; the inane folly and misery which go with intoxication. Wherefore, liquor holds no "temptation" for me! . . . Am I "tempted"

to visit the red-light districts? Since a youngster I was taught the horror of venereal disease. And from the time of maturity I have come to know that the LANGUAGE used by the degenerate and by the UNregenerate who ply that trade, is so VILE and ABOMINABLE that my whole being violently recoils with a great horror. "Temptation" ? NO! Much to the contrary! Yet this is not a matter of SELF, but merely to illustrate how "temptation" is utterly foreign to my Spirit-conscious life, AND WAS THUS INTENDED AND PLANNED FOR US BY GOD ALMIGHTY ! HE wills for us that our senses should FIRST perceive facts; that our hearts should RECEIVE THE TRUTH - to the end that we may never be "INTRODUCED" to "temptation."

Jesus the Christ was a man of FEW words: speaking that which He heard directly from THE THRONE ROOM.... ("And the words which you hear are NOT MINE but the Father's which sent me." Wherefore it behooves us to throw aside the mumbo-jumbo of a spiritually blind priest-caste, while with tremendous volition bore to the core of His Words which were and are SPIRIT and LIFE - IN-TRUTH. (What unspeakable GLORIES are resident in TRUTH!)

Perhaps we should look at another passage or two similarly rendered. In Mtt. 15:14 He spoke of the blind LEADING the blind; in Rev. 7:17 the Lamb shall LEAD them to fountains of living water. In both instances we find the Gr. word "hodāgā." THIS has been correctly rendered, and, as you can see, bears no similarity to the "eisenegkās" of Mtt. 6:13.

But is it THAT important? - some will say. Yes, I construe it thus. For, our CONCEPT of the God we serve, cannot help but mightily mould the life we live. So long as we believe in an abominable God, so long must our lives partake of the undesirable. While when we fully receive a concept of TRUTH-IN-LIGHT AND LOVE, then does its intrinsic GLORY commence to TRANSFORM and TRANSMUTE the entirety of our life and being to the selfsame strata of GLORY-TRUTH?

SOUL * Mark 8:36-37 is an instance of reckless liberty being
or * taken in translating the Greek word "psuchān". Read
LIFE? * carefully thru the verses 35-37, bearing in mind that
* in the Gr. we find the selfsame PSUCHAN used in all
* four instances. But the translators used "life" twice,
then veered off to "soul" twice As we study the
words of our Lord we find no grounds for attributing a changed

meaning in verses 36-37, but rather the very same that throught verses 35-37. Manifestly He was speaking of the PHYSICAL LIFE here on earth throught, carrying the same throught into v. 38.

It is true that the Gr. "psuche" may be rendered either LIFE or SOUL, yet that gives us no authority to juggle the words arbitrarily! But a carnally conscious priesthood has to deal with an intangible "soul" which it can rescue from "purgatory" (Plus more blasphemous piffle) by pretentious prayers! ("Beware of the scribes which love to GO IN LONG CLOTHING --- which devour widow's houses, and FOR A PRETENCE MAKE LONG PRAYERS: these shall receive greater judgment" - Mk. 12:38-40. ---- How true - even unto this day! PRETENDING that power with God is their's thru long winded prayer - to the end that the substance of poor widows may be consumed for the alleged release of a departed husband's soul in purgatory.".....)

But time and again I must come back at you to HAMMER IN this preeminent TRUTH: As the PHYSICAL LIFE of Adam was lost as the primary consequence of SIN, ("IN THE DAY THOU EAT THEREOF THOU SHALT SURELY DIE"), so, came the "Lamb of God" to LIFT THAT SELFSAME SENTENCE OF DEATH UPON THE PHYSICAL BODY, thereby, "destroying the works of the enemy." Hereby is not implied that man has not a "soul", neither that it is not in need of "saving." (THAT is shown us by the selfsame fate which befell EVE - whom God had given unto Adam for a helpmate.) IT is the PHYSICAL BODY of man which is God's ABSOLUTE MATERPIECE. Wherefore, its loss is the greatest of possible tragedies. The human brain and its astoundingly marvelous capacity IS SOMETHING WHICH THE HIGHEST ANGELS OF GOD DO NOT POSSESS! We can REASON analytical-ly, deductively and inductively: the angels of God CANNOT! The marvelous BRAIN of an Einstein can analyse matter, force and time, arriving at demonstrable conclusions COUNTLESS AGES OF TIME AHEAD OF THE UNDEVELOPED AND APATHETIC BRAIN!!!

This MASTERPIECE of over ten billion cells (not counting those in the cerebellum), together with the 7 ductless glands and nerve ganglia, has God perfected as THE ABSOLUTE AND CROWNING GLORY of all His labors. THIS BODY and its LIFE is what Adam FIRST LOST! THIS body and its life is what Yahweh personally came to BUY BACK and ransom from the power of the grave! THIS is the grand PRIZE for which He was willing to leave

the GLORIES OF THE FATHER'S THRONE, to enter a lowly slave-form in order TO REDEEM. THIS is the priceless possession which He could not bear to see "lost"; THIS is the crowning glory of PERFECTION which entailed the past countless eons of time to produce: this the height of His ambition, and consummated wonder of the utmost of DIVINE WISDOM, is that for which HE S A C R I F I C E D ALL "to seek and to SAVE". Yes, beloved: in contrast to this the unspeakable glories of Heaven became like dross! A l l, ALL its glories were set aside as nothing IN ORDER TO REDEEM AND TO SAVE" the crowning masterpiece of all His labors! This "body beautiful", this garment dazzling, this WONDROUS L I V - I N G TEMPLE is the perfect vehicle for the "sons of God". And, when the "sons of God" are unveiled in the fulness of His stature, the HUMAN BODY shall be MASTER OF THE FOUR ELEMENTS as well as of TIME AND SPACE: a body that is not affected b y cold nor the sun's consuming heat; a body which can pass unhurt thru concrete, glass or steel; which can live in earth, water, air or fire TIME WITHOUT END UNTIL ITS GLORY OUTSHINES THE SUN!

- 3 THAT is the crowning masterpiece of all His labors for which He sacrificed everything to "SAVE." Sleeper, AWAKE to the glory of THIS - HIS MASTERPIECE - that you may commence to treat it the way it deserves!

While I am at the subject of the human body and its "salvation", perhaps it would be well to take a fresh look at that word SALVA-TION.

I will not say that it is a wrong, nor even a poor rendering of the Gr. "sotāria", but I do state emphatically that we are in d i r e need of its fuller understanding.

A man is in danger, but rescue comes in time. The rescuer may be termed a "saver," or a "savior" of the person's life, while the accomplished rescue is the "salvation" wrot THIS h a s been transferred to a higher plane of concept, and as dealing with the soul of man, with its Savior as the Christ of God. Factually, there is little wrong with this aside from its PART-Truth, and the faulty understanding of salvation. For, in its primary and radical sense the Gr SOTARIA means PRESERVATION! And its variants should be rendered 'preserve' and 'Preserver.' Tho momentarily I refrain from an emphatic statement, I certainly doubt that there is any passage of Scripture where the above can n o t quite properly be used. And certainly in most instances would

convey a more correct understanding..... Perhaps we should not argue the minor difference in the meaning of the two words, yet 'salvation' has come to imply to Christendom the idle strumming of a harp, on streets of gold in a far off land in a vague tomorrow. Admittedly, this will be quite true (except for the idle strumming of the harp) for a very small percentage of Christendom (the 100-fold category), but certainly does not apply to the bulk of the church. For such there is no 'salvation' to be realized in keeping with their understanding thereof! But there will be a 'preservation' of their soul Get this clearly: the "sotaria" the Lamb of God came to accomplish, was an ABSOLUTE PRESERVATION of all that which had originally become subject to death and disintegration, as the consequence of the original disobedience. . . In its fullest sense we may term it 'salvation' - if we so wish. But its full and correct meaning is PRESERVATION (of the otherwise perishable). And thus was it used and understood in ancient times by the Israel people. YAHWEH was the 'Preserver' of His people; He was the Preserver of their society and of the Holy City. While in the wilderness He supplied them with water and food, thus becoming their 'Preserver.' . . . As we further reflect on the true meaning of the Gr. Sotāria (shorn of its wings), we come to realize that it is in perfect accord with the true meaning of the term 'God' as deduced from its usage in Scripture (and set forth in the brochure: "GOD"). For assuredly it is a logical conclusion to suppose that the Almighty 'KEEPER' should be man's 'PRESERVER.' And when the Lamb of God came to "abolish the works of the enemy", He wrought an ABSOLUTE PRESERVATION for the perishable body and soul, in order that the fulness of the KEEPER'S power might become manifest in His creation!

Next let us take a brief glance at "creation." As these words are
 MAKE * found in first Genesis, and as commonly understood,
 FORM * God shouted a word or two when IMMEDIATELY might
 CREATE * the suns blazed forth in space. And of course this little
 * the earth possibly required but a simple, one-syllable word. A hunk of clay He moulded with deft artistry (maybe a few minutes work); probably spoke a word or two and puffed at it. Then presto! There stood Adam..... I say, THIS is - more or less - the average concept, and the impression given us by the Genesis account..... But here is what I find as I look into the Greek: a considerable array of words which link with toil, or LABOR TO PRODUCE - as if wrought with much effort ("Kamnō"), and to BUILD Systematically from the foundation and up - even as a

house is constructed ("poieō"); to prepare, make ready, furnish and fit for habitation ("kataskeuadsō"). Then there is "ktizo" which means to BUILD houses, cities and to thus colonize, or to PLANT, FOUND and BUILD and BRING INTO BEING. But in the English versions we find 'create' and 'made' thrown at us with little regard for the full meaning of the original words....But of course, there may be more appeal to the magician idea which requires no time flat to perfect the maze of microscopic detail involved in ten billion times ten quintillion things.

And now just to THINK for a moment: Often I wonder why the translators have used the expression "Holy GHOST"? In scores of places they have used "Spirit" while scores of others we find "Ghost." To me there is a ghastly difference between the two!... In the Gr texts we find "pneuma" only, without exception - and its meaning is "spirit." Why a spooky ghost has been introduced to link with God's Spirit is utterly beyond me. But theologians have substituted a ghost for REALITY!... May your concept of Him take on maturity in realism.

THEN shall you go on to KNOW Him. While in "knowing" Him, you shall go on into spiritual maturity; and that in turn results in peace within, and achievement without.

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First "PROVE the matter" before you are justified to "believe" it.

WHY do the common versions extant say
"--FIND FAITH--". when the Greek
prefixes Faith by the definite article THE ?

* * * "PANTA DOKIMADZETE TO KALON KATECHETE" --
(-I Thes 5:21

* * * entirely prove; the right hold fast. - M. D.

Observe here that the Gr Dokimadzete rendered "prove", is actually a much stronger word. It means to PUT TO THE TEST -- as metal in the fire; to carefully test, scrutinize and try for its PURITY.

THAT did the enlightened Paul (whom Protestant Christendom now accepts as their authority) COMMAND the Thessalonians. Are YOU willing that ALL dogma and 'articles of faith' should first be put thru the fire of spirit in order to determine its state of PURITY and realism?

IF so, very well. Then come with me into the original Gr texts where we shall here survey TRUTHS as originally stated, and turn the spotlight on several items of rubbish, and man-invented dogma as spewed forth to us in the A V and indeed, in numerous versions of the Gr texts.

But this time the STUDY is heavy and covers much ground. So first let the cat out, choke off the radio/TV and settle back comfortably in preparation for shocks, jars and the toppling of misconceptions (quite generally prevailing). Several questions have come in and I would like to deal with all of them. Also, some thots and findings of my own which I consider in place to set forth.

THE * The A V renders Lk 18:8 as having our Lord question -
FAITH * ing as to whether or not He would - on His return -
* "find FAITH on the earth." I find in the oldest Gr texts
"-- tñ pistin --" which means THE faith Wherefore I
ask you - both Catholic and Protestants: IS IT NOT HIGH TIME
YOU AWAKEN FROM YOUR STUPID SLUMBER, AND FROM THE
VAIN FANTASY OF A WISHFUL DREAM, THAT YOUR FAITH

IS THE FAITH? Christ wasn't speaking of 'faith', but emphatically of "THE FAITH" DELIVERED TO THE APOSTLES BY HIMSELF And when you have 'come to yourself', you will come into the spirit of humbleness and trembling before God; having washed your eyes you will SEEK TRUTH and cease your gabbing a b o u t man-invented dogmas.

"MAN" * This used to be 'a MAN'S WORLD', and in consider -
 * able measure still is. And THAT is the reason why
 * we find in the A V 'man' and 'a man' used so frequent -ly, when, in fact, it seldom occurs in the Gr texts. The cases are far too numerous to mention, but any student sending in a specific passage, I will check it for you. But let us take the better known 3rd ch. of John's gospel.

v1: A MAN of the Pharisees =
 correctly rendered.

v 2: "for no MAN can do--" = WRONG! Gr: "oudeis-gar"= f o r NO ONE (or NONE)

v 3: "except A MAN be born--"=WRONG! Gr: "tis"=ANYONE or someone.

v 4: "how can a man"= correct. (Gr "anthrōpos = man.)

v 5: WRONG AGAIN! Jesus did not say "a man", but merely ANY -ONE ("tis"). And THUS - times without number - h a v e MEN perverted the Word of God to vaunt their own ego

* We talk and read about "the GOSPEL of Jesus Christ."

GOSPEL * Perhaps there is little if anything wrong with the use

* of the word (as defined in our dictionaries,) b u t a s COMMONLY UNDERSTOOD, I believe it is grossly lacking . . . In Mtt 24:14 we read: "And this GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM --" In the Gr we find: "touto-to-euangelion--" Literally rendered: "these THE glad tidings --." That which has been rendered "gospel" thruout, is in the Gr THE GLAD TIDINGS (or news). IF we will bear this in mind, and come into the full realization of THAT to which Jesus referred, then we will soon get rid of our l o n g -faced, pious demeanor so common to a funeral. And we will soon start singing and shouting WITH REAL JOY IN OUR HEARTS. And we will also come to realize that this THE GLAD TIDINGS could - by no stretch of the imagination, refer to some BLOOD PATER - NITY invention - preached by a modern cult with inflated egos and empty heads. For, said He, it should be preached to ALL n a - tions, races and people. Had He referred to this modern PER - VERSION of Truth, then its preaching to other nations and peo - (ples

would have been "the SAD story" of God's partiality! But the wind whistling thru empty skull-bones these days begs and BEGS for more money to carry the story of abominations to all the world!!

* Frequently we find in the A V - and in other translations - "all things." In the passage cited at the opening we find in the A V "all things to be proven." I render it "entirely." Perhaps it is a minor point over which to raise an issue, yet time and again, "all THINGS" convey the wrong impression. We find in the Gr texts merely PANTA. This means ENTIRELY: altogether: every way, or, on every side. Bear this in mind, for, we will come across it again before the study is over.

Here is an excerpt from the letter of a Minister on the west coast: "In SP #8 you make the following statement: 'Even that fundamental dogma of both Judaism and Christianity we have labeled the RESURRECTION is but ANOTHER CHANCE which God is to give us.' My thinking is a little confused on the subject of the resurrection, especially in light of what you said about 're-incarnation.' Could you elaborate on the RESURRECTION in some future study? Also regarding Jesus' statement to the thief on the cross: 'This day shalt thou be with me in Paradise' just what and where is paradise, and was the SOUL of the thief 'saved'?"

I am not too sure just what the Rev JLE expects in my "elaboration on the resurrection." So I will merely make a cut and dried statement as briefly as possible. The 'resurrection' as believed in by the ancient fathers, referred to a RE-upstanding here on earth of physical bodies previously dead. And that the same COMING BACK TO LIFE AGAIN were to take place at or in "the last day." At least in its main outline, Jesus emphatically confirmed this belief. This TRUTH was emphatically taught by God thru His prophet Isaiah and as clearly stated in 26:19.... Jesus somewhat rounded out the concept by declaring such to become "the SONS of the resurrection" and "the SONS of God" (not 'children' as the A V puts it)--(See Lk 20:36). Simultaneously He said that such would no longer be subject to death; and, implied they would also be sexless beings. (SEX - as we know it - is an objective manifestation of CREATIVE POWER which God has placed within certain 'power tubes' of the inner man. Its objective expression as we know it today will have no place whatever in the COMING KINGDOM where life IS and death but a horrid dream

of the past.)

"RE-incarnation" I do not teach. For, as commonly taught today it is but a gross perversion of God's Truth. Yet there is Truth - SUBSTANCE to it as I have elsewhere pointed out. Yet we should not confuse the two. For, where God speaks of the resurrection, He is not talking about re-incarnation.

"THIS DAY SHALT THOU BE WITH ME IN PARADISE." The word 'paradise' is from the Persian language (if I recall correctly), and referred especially to that precinct, or the enclosed land surrounding, and adjacent to the Palace OF THE KING. I should there have said the palace-GROUNDS of the king. The palace itself had a limited enclosure especially for the king and his household. While immediately on its outside was a far greater enclosure known as 'paradise.' To this there was no access by the common people. To THIS special location did Jesus refer when speaking to that thief who knew the meaning of the word. Thus was the thief promised a meeting with Jesus in the beautiful and especially favored terrain JUST OUTSIDE THE HEAVENLY PALACE-GROUNDS. Not in the Temple of Heaven itself, neither in its 'court', but just outside that - where robbers, villains and the UNfavored had no place. On another occasion Jesus referred to the same place as "Abraham's BOSOM." John the Revelator termed it "under the Altar." We call it 'heaven' today, although attached thereto are many erroneous ideas not true to 'Paradise.' For, observe: AS YET the "Kingdom of Heaven" (or "of God") has not been opened to earthlings either IN or out of the body. AS YET has not dawned that GREAT DAY OF ATONEMENT when the RANSOM PRICE shall be presented in FLAMING BLOOD before THE SUPREMACY at Central Power. UNTIL that day, we are but "HID with Christ in God." That is, even such great ones as Peter and Paul are confined to Paradise, for, "the LEAST in the Kingdom of God is greater than he (John the Baptist)." Yet maintain not the childish notion that there are none already in "the Kingdom of God" in Heaven. Cycles of manifestation and uncomputable eras of time dropped their curtains long before Abraham!

"Was the SOUL of the thief 'saved'?" YES, emphatically! The thief upon the cross entered into "FAITH in the Son of God", in Whom FAITH is the open sesame to life eonian for the soul-body. God has ordained no mumbo-jumbo as a prerequisite to its attainment. IF in such rests your 'religion', then know for a certainty

that you have not "THE faith" - delivered by the Son of God, even tho you have soul-saving faith IN Him. Erroneous concepts throttle your own Christ-expressive life, and thwart the effectiveness of your labors for His Kingdom.

Writes TGC from Baltimore: "(1) John the Baptist said he was * not Elijah (who was to come). Christ seems to have said that * J- the B- was Elijah. How do we explain this ?

* (2) In view of the fact that you give practically your entire * time to the Lord's work, I do not understand how it could be said that you at any time failed to give your tithe - one tenth of a day - What is the answer ?"

Answering #2 first: In the Tabracana lessons I have endeavored to show NUMERALLY the function of the TITHE. (It is immaterial whether it be money, substance or TIME.) But some of these TRUTHS-IN-GOD are difficult to put over in a few words so that everyone cannot help but understand. So, briefly, here I shall try again: '1' is LIGHT and LIFE, and the 'tithe' is that selfsame '1'. It is God's OWN; it is His intrinsic number. It is His LIGHT leading into the fulness of His LIFE ('1'). It is not a SLAVE-number; it is not a DEBT; it is not an onus nor related to bondage. It has nothing to do with SELF nor the carnal man. But rather A LIGHT to be captured and carried about - that it may be given to others. This is shown by the DIVISION of '2' which follows the '1' Wherefore, the LABORS which I perform-perhaps thruout an 18-hour day, figuratively commence from the '2' and carry thru. Yet even with myself (and others who serve Him whole time), SPECIFIC TIME and effort must be directed to SNAP ON THAT LIGHT; TO LIVE IN THAT LIFE thruout a minimum TIME-TITHE, that the life may take on of His DYNAMIC; that the channel may be kept open; that the circuit shall be active; that FRESH FOUNTAINS may be contacted for the quenching of thirst, both in the life of the individual as well as to have and carry about for others. Where it is in money or substance, then it accrues indirectly, or vicariously. But the time given to writing letters, answering questions, or maybe Articles, or even SERMONettes are OUTWARDLY directed labors which make little contact with the '1'. The latter is an inner or CENTRAL number, even as the SUN is the center of the solar system. THAT is the 'theory' of it, yet I have DEMONSTRATED it to myself (or given God the chance to demonstrate it to me) time and again.

#1: In II Kings 2:11 we read where Elijah was taken up into heaven in a chariot of fire. At any rate he was "taken up." And much later God promised His people that He would send them Elijah - BEFORE the coming of the Lord. Wherefore, it became common belief - among His people - that, AFTER THE MANNER OF ELIJAH'S GOING UP, so would he come again (descending from heaven, perhaps in a chariot of fire!) This somewhat naive concept we find prevalent in the days of Jesus, and especially brot out at the time of Jesus' crucifixion when some said: "Behold, He calls Elijah. -- Let alone; let us see whether Elijah will come to take Him down!" (Mk 15:35-36). . . . With this belief John the Baptist was well conversant. He knew that the ancient and venerable body of the Tishbite was THAT which the scribes anticipated to come back from 'heaven.' Wherefore, when he was asked point blank if he was THAT Tishbite, he replied "NO" emphatically: he knew that he was the son of ordinary parents and grown up as other youngsters. Yet we read in Jhn 1:23 how he answered them: "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE LORD" (quoted from Is. 40:3). H O W , then, could he - the son of a priest - help but also know Mal. 3:1 which reads: "Behold, I will send my messenger and he shall PREPARE THE WAY BEFORE ME--" ? And in the next chapter Malachi labels him 'Elijah.' The 'GREATEST of all prophets' could not help but be fully aware of those passages, as well as to know that the two spoke of one and the same! Wherefore, he knew his own identity, but answered the scribes IN KEEPING WITH THEIR BELIEF.

Here is more about ELIJAH. ZF writes from Penn.: "(1) H o w can we understand Jesus' words in Mtt 17:11 where He says "Eli-
 * jah truly SHALL (future) first come, and restore all things."
 * (J-B- was already dead and the Transfiguration taken place)?
 * (2) God had sent a 'forerunner' before the first advent of J e -
 * sus: is it not reasonable to assume that He would work by like
 * pattern before the second advent of Jesus?
 * (3) If not Elijah, then who is to be the forerunner of the sec-
 * ond coming? Scripture?
 * (4) If anybody is to be the forerunner, no one that I have know-
 * ledge of fits the 'bill' as does Mikkel Dahl. Are you that one?
 * (5) If the spirit of Elijah was incarnate in John the Baptist, is
 * it not possible that he could again return even now as another?
 * - - (6) Or am I probing too deeply, not thinking straight?"

By the time these are answered, the matter of John the Baptist should be safely tucked away . . . Answering the last one first, I would say that our probing can never be "too deep" tho perhaps at times into UNessential matters..... Most of the reasoning by ZF is straight enuf and to the point, but we are prone to error when we enter into the matter of PERSONALITIES - in our search for Truth. WHO I am is not important unto this generation, but my MESSAGE thereto IS! Yet my message must be accepted in the strength OF THE TRUTH IT PORTRAYS, rather than to be founded in some 'claim' by myself. SHUN whosoever alleges to be someone of note - out of the past! Those of us who have been NEAR HIM, have had the wind taken out of the inflated ego - if THAT it was. When you look into THOSE EYES which behold you, you know at once the insignificance of your own stature beside the towering figure of Christ our Lord. Had God wished to impress His people thru THE PHENOMENAL, He could easily have sent back Elijah in the form he went up. But He wanted His people to receive righteousness FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE, rather than to be startled into it thru the miraculous and phenomenal. And similarly in Jesus' life: TRUTH was proclaimed in plain language, and designed for those who would receive it on TRUTH'S MERIT rather than to be 'high pressured' into it thru miraculous SIGNS FROM HEAVEN. . . . Wherefore I repeat that WHO I am is very UNimportant, but woe unto him who rejects the TRUTH; TRUTH - that beautiful iridescence from the body of Christ Jesus my Father, my Preserver and Lord!

#2: Yes, it might be 'reasonable' to assume that God would work by a similar pattern. Yet we have no Scripture to that effect.

#3: If not Elijah, then WHO? Revelations 11:3-13 describe the brief ministry of His "TWO WITNESSES" which are to precede His coming. In the little treatise labelled THE MIDNIGHT CRY, I have unveiled their identity.

#5: YES! It would be quite possible (thru God's decree) for the spirit of Elijah to now be here in another human form. But in those words I am not saying that he is.

And now for #1. But to Understand that we must go back to the original texts and uncover the WORD OF GOD, by which we give the boot to rubbish injected by man. So let us take a CLOSER LOOK:

Speaking specifically of John the Baptist (while the baptist was still alive, Jesus said emphatically: " For this is he of whom it has

been written: Behold I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way before thee," (Mtt 11:10.) . . . Then some time thereafter when the baptist had been beheaded, Christ spoke the words referred to by ZF, and as recorded in Mtt. 17:11. But WHAT did Jesus say? LOOK - with me - and SEE:

"ĀLIAS MEN ERCHETAI PRŌTON KAI APOKATASTĀSEI

Elijah indeed comes first and REVOLUTIONIZES
PANTA "= COMPLETELY! -M.D.

First a word to those who know not the rudiments of Greek: Be not confused by such spellings as ĀLIAS above. The Gr changes the ending of words - even in proper nouns - to comply with their 'case' requirements. Mumblerers in the night who translated the Gr into English, left reason asleep while giving us such renderings as "Elias." IF in the old prophets a man is known as 'Eli-jah', he should remain 'Elijah' thruout - to avoid confusion. And IF another is known as 'Noah', he must thus remain instead of being changed to 'Noe'! In the English language we do not play around with proper nouns. Wherefore, 'Elijah' remains as 'Eli-jah' - always - to this writer.

Not being a student of Greek, ZF is well justified to question the correctness of an earlier answer I gave her to the effect that the passage referred to PAST history. "Elijah truly SHALL FIRST COME--", is to us FUTURE TENSE. And to my great dismay I have found the same error carried thru into EVERY TRANSLATION-ON which I have so far had the privilege and the pain to investigate. Even in the 'Concordant' version of the N.T., I see where they have been led into the same blunder. And in the MODERN version I see where they have also corrupted THE ORIGINAL TRUTH in order to propagate the ideas of man! Now, please bear with me while we look at the Gr grammar and the precise wording of the Textus Receptus as recorded above.

The verb above for COME is 'erchetai.' In Greek, especially in the Old Gr, they did not say 'IS TO come' nor 'HAS come', but merely conditioned or indicated the tense by the ENDING of the word. Above you observe the 'tai' ending. You need not take my word for it; just look up any authentic Gr grammar and you will find that the said verb-ending is classified as "Present Middle Indicative." This means NOW, assuredly NOT future. And its correct rendering into modern English is as I have given it above:

'COMES', to which we should add the qualifying statement: A PRESENT ACT OF COMING . . .

Next we look to the word the translators rendered 'restore.' There we find an 'ei' ending. My grammar of OLD Greek shows that to be "PRESENT Active" - when used in the "3rd person." (The '3rd person' should also qualify my statement above re Er - cheTAI.) Wherefore, the proper rendering (assuming we concede 'restoration' to be the meaning intended), would be: "Elijah in - deed comes first and restores completely."

The disciples had beheld His GLORY, and had heard special witness from out of Heaven that this Jesus was THE Son of God. And, since they had never heard of any flaming chariot coming down from Heaven bearing Elijah back to them, they posed the question to Jesus: WHY is it that the scribes claim Elijah must F I R S T come? To which Jesus simply replied: Indeed Elijah C O M E S FIRST! Yet THAT was not a statement implying future tense, but merely an underscoring of the prophetic word that THUS it had been written and THUS it had to transpire,

Furthermore, at least on one previous occasion (together with the instance under discussion) He had emphatically stated that John the Baptist was one and the same as Elijah - the prophesied one to return. Wherefore, IF Jesus had given the disciples to understand that Elijah's coming was STILL future, we may logically surmise that they would have replied to Him: "IF Elijah has already come, HOW is he to YET come?" But we find no hint of any such perplexing question in their minds! Which fact constitutes 'circumstantial evidence' that His reply was as given in the old Gr texts, and as I have rendered it on the preceding page.

Now for a deeper look into this abysmal error - wilfully perpetrated by a snoring and apathetic priesthood!

Look at that word "Apokatastāsei." Its first three letters constitute a PREFIX. The Gr APO means FROM, or AWAYFROM. We have many words in the English based on this Gr prefix. For instance, Apology. That is, Apo= away from, and Logia= dis - course, or something said. So we make an APOlogy, or express regret for something previously said or done. We speak AWAY FROM the previous stand or impression given. Next we look at its final and main part which is Katastāsei. The EI is its changed ending. The proper word is Katastasis. And here is its full definition as found in the large Greek lexicon at my hand.

"setting; appointing, institution; an introduction; a state or condition; bringing of ambassadors before the assembly." - Positively not the slightest allusion to GIVING, BRINGING or RESTORATION.

I am not too fond of the rendering I have given on the previous page, yet THAT is its correct rendering. I dislike it for the simple reason that in this age of 'revolutions' many may be prone to think in terms of MARXist revolutionizing. Yet let us pursue the word further and learn what God had in mind when He spoke it thru His chosen prophet Malachi, and used it again in the mouth of Peter (Acts 3:21).

6

From the earliest days of which we have record when God commenced revealing Himself to man, and setting up 'governments' for a people, such were forms of THEOCRACY, i.e. GOD-rule. Even in the Garden of Eden, God laid down the LAW. . . Then when He established His nation, He gave them Moses, Joshua and Samuel who ruled His people with DIVINE AUTHORITY. Should not a child be ruled by his father? Or should children in diapers and knee pants appoint unto themselves 'heads' and 'rulers' with their 'councils', and thumb their nose at their father? Yet THAT is what Israel did! For, "Jeshurun" had "waxed fat" and his heart very gross, and so in the days of Samuel they kicked over the traces and thumbed their nose at Yahweh! THEY DEMANDED 'A KING' - like unto the abominations among the Gentiles. . . . Samuel was heart-broken. Yet God consoled him. And later He said: "I gave them a king in my anger and I took him away in my wrath"! An earthly KING meant the ignoring of God; it meant the aggregate foolishness of man (advice of counselors) set up to guide the affairs of man! Some kings ruled according to their own limited understanding and arrogancy, while others yielded to limited 'democracy' by setting up 'councils' where the opinions of the learned were considered - and sometimes heeded. Such was the departure from God, and the SIN of His people in the days of Malachi. And SUCH were the sins of His people in the days of Jesus and Peter. THEN for a long time they had had the Sanhedrin: a conclave of lawyers to rule in the affairs of their nation (in such matters as Rome permitted them the authority).

Now tell me: What 'things' did John the Baptist 'restore' to his people? Perhaps he brot back the holy Ark to the temple, and perhaps the vessels of gold and silver and copper! Or was there some volume of LAW which had been entombed which he 'restored'? - - Or tell me, What 'things' can possibly be 'restored'?

to His people, or to the world at large, even if the Heavens were to hold the Christ for another million years? Beloved, use your head and think straight! There are no 'things' to be 'restored'! THAT is the babble of man! But WHAT did John the B- 'restore'? NOTHING! He was A PREACHER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS for righteousness' sake. He was a REVOLUTIONIST, SPIRIT-motivated. He countered the sanhedrin; he defied the highest law within his land (so his head was chopped off). He preached RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE; HE PREACHED THE RULE BY GOD WITHIN THE HUMAN HEARTS. And in any nation where the aggregate individuals are RULED BY GOD within their own hearts, THAT nation will also be RULED BY GOD in its executive chambers: no longer listening to the COUNSELS of stupid man; utterly oblivious to the 'opinions' of man-appointed 'lawyers' and business-heads!

Look again at the authentic definition of that Greek word: "bringing of ambassadors before the assembly"! Does it not SHOUT at you? Are you so blind and stiff-necked with a brow of brass that you fail to see THAT is precisely what we have in 'Monarchies' and in our 'democratic' States; yes, what the gentiles had before, and what His people have had ever since the days of King Saul; yes, and what we have today.

John the B-- 'restored' NOTHING! But he preached GOD-RULE within the human heart! The people of his day were IN the world, OF the world and FOR the world. While he was OUT of this world, IN the spirit of God, and FOR the God of his fathers. He was A REVOLUTIONIST! Everything of his day he was against! All the deliberations of man were but an abomination to him! And so sincere and intense and volatile was his preaching that Israel was so moved as they have never been before nor since. He corrected the heart of countless multitudes, and, IN THEIR HEARTS he "straightened the way" for his LORD - that a PATH IN HUMAN HEARTS might already be found blazed, by Jesus Christ; lest, not finding any hearing by an utterly gross people He should be grieved enough to "smite the earth (or 'land') with a curse"! (Mal.

(4:6).

THAT is what Malachi spoke about; THAT is what Jesus spoke about; THAT is what Peter spoke about: THE GOING AWAY FROM MAN-APPOINTED CONDITIONS OF GOVERNMENT! (APOkatastasis). Peter elaborated, saying, that the Heavens had to receive and HOLD the Christ UNTIL man relinquishes his folly

thru MAN-made governments; UNTIL man boots back into the pit the effervescence which arose from its dregs at the acceptance of Saul by Israel (in defiance and scorn of Yahweh)! "Bringing of ambassadors before the assembly" (Katastasis), flee AWAY FROM (Apo) IT cries the ancient mouthpiece of Yahweh; indeed so it must be, said our Lord, while His chief messenger RE affirmed it, adding that UNTIL His people would have it thus the Heavens would be dark above them, and their Messiah beyond their reach! And what did His apostles do about it? They sold all they had and "had everything IN COMMON!" They departed from the traditions of MAN; they defied the customs of their day and SET UP JESUS CHRIST WITHIN THEIR HEARTS THAT A GOD - RULE MIGHT BE A FACTUAL REALITY IN THEIR MIDST. And THUS they dared to hope that their beloved Messiah might return to them - even in their day!

Do you mean to tell me, or are you so naive as to even momentarily BELIEVE that the masters in Greek failed to understand the meaning of Apokatastasis? Can you believe for a moment that the well learned among the 'theologians' do not know it (that is, of those who understand Greek)? So WHY the deliberate deception? Because 'tradition' must be honored, even as in the days of Jesus (over which sin He took them to task - so they strung Him up)! Our 'institution' must be supported! Our present organized churches exist (came into existence) because they are STATE - sponsored and backed! (THAT was the SIN which denuded His virgin Church and shaved her head: shorn her of POWER). And so the weak-kneed hypocrites have rejoiced in their SIN ever since Rome espoused them! And so our Protestant churches ('prostitutes' - daughters of the mother harlot) - have also rejoiced in the selfsame abomination: FOSTERED, CONTINUED AND PROPAGATED THE LIE!

Is there a 'church' in our midst today with sufficient God - ZEAL to fearlessly declare HIS TRUTH - regardless of where it will lead? But NO! It isn't 'popular'! It doesn't lend itself to increased congregations. It doesn't 'pay off' in dollars and cents! Wherefore, THE LIE must be propagated; scum from the Pit must be preserved; dregs out of hell must be honored - lest treasures dwindle! (Beloved, pray for me that I shall not fail Him . . .)

"Before the great and terrible day of the Lord come." - - Some of you might ask: Surely, THAT is future; surely the days of Jesus' did not fulfill that! And if not, then is Elijah still to

come! Let us see:

"PRIN ELTHĀ HĀ HĀMERA TOU KURIU HĀ M E G A L Ā
(before arrives the day (of) the Lord the great

KAI EPIFANĀS"

and revealing) or "coming to light."

The Greeks often place their words in different sequence than we do in English. But even so we are well justified to ask: WHICH is GREAT and REVEALING in the above: the 'DAY' or the 'LORD'? It could mean either. Yet it seems more natural (to us - at least) to consider those words as qualifying LORD rather than the day. Assuredly our LORD is 'great' and 'revealing.' HE was so GREAT in His day, and so REVEALING (bringing into the light) that both friends and foes FEARED HIM! Even of His beloved disciples it is written that they didn't DARE to ask Him! For He was like a CONSUMING FIRE, "PURGING THE SONS OF LEVI"!

F

In the Gr., Joel 2:30-31 imputes TERROR-striking qualities to THE DAY of the Lord. This that has been transposed to the other passages as well.

But back again to 'restoration.' In vain I have searched for a repetition of Apokatastasis elsewhere, denoting or implying restoration, But I have found "apoditōmi" which means GIVE UP, BACK, or AWAY FROM one. And "Anorthō" which means to RESTORE, or to set up again.

But to the end that there shall be an APO-KATASTĀSIS is God placing strategically, dregs from out of the Pit! These, together with our "ambassadors before the assembly" will bring about such unprecedented holocaust, and world maddening nightmare, that from the least unto the great, THEY SHALL PANT FOR A GOD-RULE. SCUM - in the millions - shall be washed away in the tidal-avalanche released by the ferocity of the Pit-inspired. Even the earth itself shall "reel and stagger like a drunken man; it shall fall and rise no more." In THOSE days shall multitudes pant for a GOD-RULE in the affairs of man. And millions shall ENTHRONE CHRIST within their hearts. And many nations - no doubt - will make an incipient beginning at THEOCRACY to replace the present demo(n)-crazy systems we have. . . Yes, we must indeed get GOD-crazy before He comes back to us! We must be so ON FIRE in the zeal of HIS SPIRIT, that all the traditions and practices of man, get booted back into hell: THAT CHRIST ALONE

come! Let us see:

"PRIN ELTHA HĀ HĀMERA TOU KURIΟΥ HĀ MEGALĀ
(before arrives the day (of) the Lord the great
KATEPIFANĀS"
and revealing) or "coming to light."

The Greeks often place their words in different sequence than we do in English. But even so we are well justified to ask: WHICH is GREAT and REVEALING in the above: the 'DAY' or the 'LORD'? It could mean either. Yet it seems more natural (to us - at least) to consider those words as qualifying LORD rather than the day. Assuredly our LORD is 'great' and 'revealing.' HE was so GREAT in His day, and so REVEALING (bringing into the light) that both friends and foes FEARED HIM! Even of His beloved disciples it is written that they didn't DARE to ask Him! For He was like a CONSUMING FIRE, "PURGING THE SONS OF LEVI!"

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SHALL REIGN SUPREME IN THE HEART OF THE INDIVIDUAL,
AND IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE NATION. THEN returns our
Lord; THEN can REIGN our Lord! And QUICKLY, Lord, let it
be!

IS OUR AUTHORIZED VERSION
THE FULLY INSPIRED AND DI-
VINELY PRESERVED WORK OF
GOD ALMIGHTY?

"-- THE KINGDOM OF THE HEAVENS HAS DRAWN NEAR" -
(Mtt. 10:7)

Perhaps it is not too welcome to those who postulate the verbatim
inspiration and preservation of both the O and N Testaments ,
yet the fact remains that very much is in verbatim conflict . . .
As above, Matthew speaks of the Kingdom of the HeavenS, while
in the corresponding passage, Luke in 9:2 speaks of the Kingdom
of God. The careful student who wishes to make a check should
consider:

Matthew	Vs	Luke	Matthew	Vs	Mark
5:3		6:20	13:24		4:26
8:11		13:28-29	13:31		4:30
10:7		9:2			Luke
11:11		7:28	13:31		13:18
11:11-12		16:16			
13:33		13:20	19:23		18:25

Whether it be casual, or a careful study as above, the verbatim
readings will be found in direct conflict, altho we may go so far
as to say they mean the same. If the student will carefully study
the 23rd and 24th verses of Mtt 19, it will be found difficult to e-
vade the conclusion that Levi (Named Matthew) used the t w o
terms interchangeably. And he certainly spoke of the K of t h e
HeavenS (plural in the Gr) repeatedly where the other G o s p e l

writers termed it the K of GOD. . . Some have postulated t h a t the original thot was "the Kingdom of the God of the Heavens"- - No doubt such have as much right to their opinion as I have t o mine. . . Personally, I see a vast difference. But since it is evident that the gospel writers heard their Lord speak both of the K of God as well as the K of the Heavens, they confused the two as being one and the same. (Such carelessness with words was not the habit of our Lord.) And since there is no distinction made in the gospel accounts, we can make no postulation now BIBLE based.

To this scribe, the K of the Heavens, refers particularly to THAT Kingdom which our Lord went "to a far country to receive--- and return." The plural (heavenS) refers to the various stratas or realms, one being the atmospheric envelope of our earth. When the last member of His Kingdom has been 'received', then He returns with the said Kingdom to establish SUPERVISION over t h e then inaugurating negative, or nether pole of the "Kingdom of GOD", which will then manifest on EARTH. THEN shall be fulfilled His statement (literally) made to Nathanael in Jhn 1:51:

"Verily, verily I say unto you: Hereafter ye shall see t h e heaven (singular) opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Did you ever stop to realize that Christ must be stationed ABOVE THE EARTH for that saying to be fulfilled? In Heaven proper we cannot speak of up or down! While on earth the angels could not ASCEND unto Him. Therefore, He must become stationed A - BOVE the earth - within its atmospheric envelope - in order fo r angels to ASCEND (from the earth) to Him, while others DESC - CEND from the Throne-room at Cosmic Center. . .

Here, perhaps, it would not be amiss to point out that in the Gr
 * the word A(n)GGELOS has been translated 'angel.'
 ANGELS * Its correct meaning is merely 'messenger.' That
 * 'messenger' may be a purely spiritual being, o r may be but a very common mortal. There is no distinction made in the Gr: only what we may gather from the context. THIS should always be borne in mind by the careful student.

INSPIRATION * It is easy to understand that our priest-caste
 OF * claims VERBATIM inspiration for the entirety
 SCRIPTURE of our Bible. Naturally, many devout Christ-
 * ians believe similarly. Actually, there is little harm to such a concept (for the simple in faith). But when we tire

of kindergarten, and yearn to advance thru gradeschool and into the Colleges of GOD-SCIENCE, then we must cast aside childish phantasies, carefully discerning between the wheat and the chaff. . . . Aside from some books in the O.T. (still in our Bibles) which were never intended to pass for "inspired scripture", the bulk of it is INSPIRED. To this can only be added the "REVELATION" of John the Divine as being VERBATIM inspired. True, the entirety of the words of the Lord Jesus (both recorded and not-recorded) were FULLY INSPIRED. But recordings thereof were made by MAN, AFTER the dispensation of LAW had closed! During that era of LAW, His mouthpieces faithfully recorded: "THUS sayeth the Lord ---." 'LAW' was obtaining: nothing was left for man to concoct. . . . But when LAW fully ceased on Calvary's cross, then entered the era of 'grace' and man's FREE WILL. Therefore said our Lord to the disciples: "and ye also SHALL BEAR WITNESS - because ye were with me from the beginning," (Jhn 15:27). 'Bearing witness' is vastly different from repeating what a person is told. (Pause long to reflect on this - that you may fully grasp the difference.) Under LAW - they wrote (and spoke) what they were told. But under GRACE (and free will), they wrote of what they had seen and heard - ACCORDING TO THEIR REMEMBRANCE. (Thus have we one speaking of the K. of God while another calls it the Kingdom of the Heavens.) . . . To be certain, I am well aware that He told them: "And the Holy Spirit -- SHALL BRING TO YOUR REMEMBRANCE ALL THAT I HAVE SAID TO YOU" (Jhn 14:26). Yet we should carefully distinguish between things BROUGHT TO THEIR REMEMBRANCE in contrast to A VOICE WITHIN DICTATING THE WORDS (to be written). Had the latter been the fact, then there would have been no word-discrepancies to be found. Neither should we forget that wherever centuries have passed, there has also the vandalistic hand of man WROTE IN FOLLY. . . . Nevertheless, I find that aside from inconsequential matters (to us now), and minor word-discrepancies, the four Gospels ABUNDANTLY BEAR GOD'S DIVINE IMPRIMATUR! (Over this I cease not to rejoice!)

Another term frequently found in Scripture is the Word "Saint."

* I know it has been my own - and I believe the common understanding thereof - conjures up the vision of someone almost 'out of this world'; something we hear about, read about but never see. Even in the RC church where they have their "canonized saints", they are - percentage-wise - few and far apart. . . . Yet when I come to the Greek, I find

but a simple and very unethereal word thus rendered. It is 'hagios', and simply means 'holy,' Used as a noun we would render it THE HOLY (ones). And in turn, 'holy' means but SET APART; that is: separated from the world and dedicated unto God. In this group I can see but two classes: (1) those who thru their own will have become separated from the things of this world in an effort to please and to draw nearer unto God. And (2), those who have been hallowed by the Fiery Spirit Baptism. Accordingly, there are a great many people in the world today who can thus be classified as 'saints.' Of course, the individual, or some school of thought may set its own standard or definition for a 'saint.' However, all such as may vary from the above twofold category ARE NOT ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE. Actually, it matters little what the individual's concept of the word may be, BUT WHEN WE COME TO THE BIBLE, then it is important that we correctly understand the meaning of the words used.

E

Which reminds me of a question by our good friend TGC of Baltimore who writes: "I was reading a short story by Fulton Ousler recently, in which he referred to Christ's reply to His mother: 'What have I to do with you, woman?' Even the Revised Bible has the old, harsh incorrect reading and I am wondering how Ousler could have gotten the correct translation. I am fairly certain that Ousler was a Catholic and am wondering if the Catholic Bible could have the proper translation. Can you enlighten me?"

YES! Momentarily I have not a copy of the Douay edition (1582) which is standard with the R C church, but I have their more modern version based on the said Rheims and Douay edition (it stands to their 1582 edition like our Revised Standard Version is to the King James Version of 1611.) Here follows their verbatim reading: "And Jesus saith to her: 'Woman, what is that to me and to thee? My hour is not yet come.'" (Jhn 2:4).

It seems reasonable that the R C church which reveres the Lord's mother, would not permit the abominable mistranslation we have, to appear in their versions. Nor can we help but wonder what prompts Protestant translators to carry on such an abominable rendering. Is it deliberately calculated to convey THE OPPOSITE to the Catholics' veneration of the Virgin Mary? Are they 'playing politics' - in an ecclesiastical sense?

Our friend bringing up the name of Fulton Ousler reminds me of what I saw when briefly scanning one of his books. He was speak-
(ing

of the Spirit Baptism, when the 120 in the upper room received it 10 days following the Ascension. And clearly did he go on to point out that when any one (of them) then "spoke in tongues," every person hearing him HEARD HIM SPEAK IN HIS OWN NATIVE LANGUAGE!!! That is, when Peter spoke, the Jews heard him in Hebrew, the Greeks heard him in Greek, the Italians in Latin and so on THAT IS A MOST FANTASTIC TWIST TO THE SCRIPTURE!!! Let me quote you - even from the Catholic version: "Behold, are not all these that speak, GalileanS? . . And how have we heard, every man our own tongue wherein we were born? ----- we have heard them speak in our own tongues the wonderful works of God" - Act 2:7-8, -11.

I consider the above an almost faultless rendering of the Greek text. But certainly not the slightest justification to draw the fantastic conclusion that every vocal sound issued by ONE person was heard in maybe as much as two dozen different vocal sounds! How fantastically childish! There were 120 (or more) who received that Spirit Baptism. And we are to gather that they all "spake in tongues" - SIMULTANEOUSLY. Wherefore, even though half or more of them had ceased speaking in tongues by the time that the throng had gathered, there were still several dozen - or scores - speaking IN TONGUES. Wherefore, Peter may have been speaking in Greek, John in Latin, James in Persian and so on. THAT makes sense, while the other is but the phantasmagoria of a gurgling and simple child.

HOW MUCH HARM IS DONE TO INSIPIENT FAITH IN GOD BY SUCH VACATIONS FROM REASON!!

Let me tell you another: Some years ago I would occasionally drop in on a little Jewish shopkeeper. I questioned him as to his faith with reference to "the faith of his fathers." He replied that he believed in God, and in the moral code as highlighted by the Law of Moses, but thus far and no further! Whereupon he commenced speaking with disgust about the alleged 'plagues' released upon the Egyptians thru Moses. To illustrate, he grabbed a glass of tomato juice. "Here" he said, "you are an Egyptian who takes to drink of the water in the river, but you find that what should be water IS BLOOD. So, in grief and disgust you hand that glass of blood to me (who am a JEW). And behold! So soon as I raise that glass of blood to my lips IT IS PURE AND GOOD WATER! Oh, no," said he, "I BELIEVE NO SUCH RUBBISH!"

THERE is a parallel in the Jewish synagogue to the ridiculous phantasy voiced by Ousler. There is not the slightest Scripture foundation for either of these perversions. IF our God cannot survive in the strength of TRUTH, and in the BEAUTY OF HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS and MAJESTY OF DIVINE POWER without making of Him a fantastic, reason-defying wizard, then let Him perish (from the human heart). . . .

There was a time of ignorance when childish intellects were at the helm: then God was a super magician from out of the Arabian Knights, as well as a monster of incalculable evil. With Paul we might say: God winked at this. . . But today is the era of progressive SCIENCE, AND GOD IS ABREAST OF OUR TIMES! We need not invent "cock and bull" stories to make an impression on pygmy brains; nor yet an absurd 'ghost' which is in a billion quintillion places in the same split moment of time, over-hearing that many different words, ALL AT THE SAME TIME, as well as looking after the sparrows, and dressing the lillies, etc. ad infinitum! I speak not against the power nor wisdom of God, but AGAINST THE FOOLISH BABBLE BY INFANTILE INTELLECTS - DROWSING IN THE NIGHT. When such remains, and is perpetuated on 'broken records' today, IT DOES MUCH HARM TO INSIPIENT FAITH IN GOD.

"And now I have told you BEFORE it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, YOU MIGHT BELIEVE." (Jesus, Jhn 14:29).

- THAT was the word of Yahweh-Jesus 19 centuries ago. THAT was the proof of God in the days of old, and THAT was the PROOF He granted us in the days of His flesh. TODAY that PROOF is as FRESH and as LIVING as ever. PROOF so abundant and overwhelming is available that a conclave of world intelligensia could not hope to refute it! And in eras yet unborn, when the intellect of man is further opened, THERE SHALL COME FORTH FROM THE WORDS OF THE LOWLY NAZARENE

- PROOFS OF FRESH AND DAZZLING IN ENCHANTING GLORY, THAT AN EINSTEIN'S BRAIN OF TODAY COULD NOT RECEIVE IT!

ASK * I have somewhat wondered why no one asked an -
QUESTIONS * other question founded in John the Baptist and Elijah. . . It arises when we read of His glorification on the mount.. But unless asked I shall point it out and answer it in the future.

- And here I wish to suggest that ALL students should make it a rule to ASK QUESTIONS. I have the utmost confidence that I could ask a great number of questions - founded in Scripture - which few IF any of you could answer. IF so, then there are many questions which YOU should be asking of me. Thru THIS - LIGHT is shed and TRUTH made manifest. And occasionally when I do not know the answer, IT OPENS THE WAY FOR REVELATION. For, that which I do not know, HIS SPIRIT WILL REVEAL. Therefore have I been sent that the - as yet - high shooting LIGHT-RAYS may become down-channeled, and sent forth unto the infilling and rejoicing of many. . . . Forget not His words that "he who seeks glory of HIM who sent him, the same is true and no unrighteousness is in him". - - Wherefore, be YOU the judge. Do I peddle to you His Word - on broken records - hoping that it will net me a good living? Or do I take the simple Word and SHOW YOU TREASURES NEW UNTO HIS GLORY AND HONOR? YOU be the judge. And having judged: wherever you find that He is being honored and glorified as He should be: SEE TO IT THAT YOU BECOME AN ACTIVE PART THEREOF!

SHOULD WE PRAY FOR COMMUNISTS?

FOR ALL AND SUNDRY?

"Would Math. 5:44 require us to pray for the Communists or their leaders?" - Submitted by TGC

The verse referred to, records how the Lord said we should love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us, etc. While in v 46 He added, "For, if you love them which love you, what reward have ye?" Whereby we perceive that He was not laying down rules for prayer, but rather exhorting unto LOVE - LEST BITTERNESS TAKE ROOT WITHIN THE HUMAN HEART. At no time are we required to factually pray for the dregs of evil, nor for effervescence from the pit. I am aware how berobed parrots drone away at our need to pray for the Kremlin (that they may "learn to live in peace with the rest of the world"). What applause! . . . God Himself said--speaking of His own chosen people

AFTER they had sinned against Him: "PRAY NOT thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me--for I WILL NOT HEAR THEE" (Jer 7:16)... Similarly did Jesus say in prayer: "--- I PRAY NOT FOR THE WORLD but for them which thou hast given me, FOR THEY ARE THINE" (Jhn 17:9). The ways of God are founded in RIGHTE- OUSNESS, not predicated on sentimental mush. Therefore ap- proaches the grim Armageddon; for, the spiritual luminaries of Christendom have emasculated the Gospel of Jesus Christ, setting forth a sissy for our God. Wilfully have they forgotten the JEAL- OUS AND CONSUMING FIRE of Moses' day, and that "God chan- ges not." God is A "FATHER." Set forth the father on earth who pampers instead of disciplines, and I will show you where his children have "gone to grass." RIGHTEUSNESS is of the Spirit and is PRIMARY: it answers to Adam. LOVE functions thru the Soul and is SECONDARY - even as was Eve. Yet the two (Righteousness and Love) were planned to supplement one another, with righteousness as the HEAD. But when Adam gets wooed by pleasure and loses his sense of HEADship - yields to Love (Eve), then opens wide the Pit and the whole family (nation or world) jet-speeds to Hell.

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---"In discussing 'Salvation' with a friend of mine, she said she did not agree with your statement re the soul being associated with lust all thru the Bible. In checking on the matter I ran into Js 4:5 blaming the spirit. But in looking up the references I find Gn 6:5 and 8:21 refer to the HEART, and Prov 21:10 refers to soul. Do you think that James did not appreciate the difference between spirit and soul, or could there be a mis-translation?" (Also submitted by TGC.)

---Naturally, the average person would "disagree" with me; such have heard about the Bible, while mine is A FULL TIME STUDY THEREOF. The average person knows no difference between soul and spirit; and also believes the former to be that deathless life from God. That such a person objects to associat- ing the soul and lust is understandable.

God Almighty personally has declared to us the precise nature of the soul in contrast to that of the spirit in Is 26: 9: "With my soul have I DESIRED thee in the night; yes, with my spirit with- in me will I SEEK thee early ---." Indeed, what recognized sin can we sin without "desire" being its prime motivation? Yearning, desire and lust are but terms for varying degrees of the

same. . . Can we steal without desiring? Or commit adultery? Even murder arises thru a desire for possession or revenge. Which fact enables us to understand why the sacrificial rites of the first covenant by Moses were to make "an atonement for the SOUL."

As to the passages Mr TGC has mentioned, it is true that James links desire to spirit. Yet Bible scholars refer us to Gn 6:5 which makes no mention of "spirit", but refers us to the HEART. To this agreed the Lord Jesus in saying that from the heart proceeded all manner of lust and uncleanness (Mk 7:19-23). We might observe that the Revised vers. gives an entirely different reading to Js 4:5. However, I find no foundation for that rendering in the old Greek Mss.

Zona F writes in: "Since Jesus had said: (Mtt 11:11 - 'Notwithstanding, he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he (John).') How then do we see Elijah-John and Moses able to talk with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration? 2: We find the account of Peter cutting off the ear of the servant of the high priest in all four gospels. In Luke we see where Jesus healed him. I would like to have an elucidation of this incident-prophecy and symbology. . . 3: Luke 4:25-27 Jesus said: 'But I tell you of a TRUTH- - -' What great truth is veiled in these words concerning Elijah and the widow, and the healing of Naaman the Syrian?"

The first question is founded in a very common misconception: the belief that when a person dies he goes to "heaven" or to "hell". True, there are Bible passages and mistranslations aplenty which can lead to this erroneous conclusion. Indeed it is stated that Elijah was taken up into "heaven" in a chariot of fire. But more to the point we are also informed: "And these all having obtained a good report thru faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, THAT THEY WITHOUT US SHOULD NOT BE MADE PERFECT," --- Hebrews 11:39-40.

Have you never given thought to how Jesus said that when Lazarus died he was carried by the messengers "into the bosom of Abraham"? And he was being 'comforted.' To which also agrees the passage in Rev where John saw under the altar the souls of certain who had suffered martyrdom. Observe carefully how none of such are claimed to be "IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD." The latter refers to full-fledged RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP IN THE REALM OF GOD. Of this the Spirit-illuminated apostle tells us that

there was nor is any piecemeal and haphazard entry, but t h a t ALL TOGETHER (who have the right thereto) SHALL BE P E R - FECTED. Moses and Elijah had been great servants of God while on earth: death of the physical body did not change nor interfere with that service unto God. Therefore we see them on the Mount ministering unto Jesus. But God has something better in s t o r e THAT WE SHALL ALL BE PERFECTED TOGETHER - when t h e 'KINGDOM' - portals are opened for all en-masse e n t i t l e d thereto.

#2: We are informed that the name of the high-priest was CAIA-PHAS. It means a depression, or low place, while the servant who had his right ear sheared off was "Malchus." This is the Gr form of Malluch which means counsellor.

It is gratifying to see that some of my senior students (like Z F) are coming to realize that ALL incidents and events in the l i f e of Jesus HAD A SPECIFIC SIGNIFICANCE. Let us first take a bird's-eye view: When the HIGH-PRIEST-hood has come down in- to the depths of a gorge or depression (Caiaphas) instead of be- ing on the MOUNTAIN-TOP WITH GOD - where it originated; and when the servants of the high-priest (Malchus) have beco m e "COUNSELLORS" - instead of God Almighty, then indeed has the Levitical High Priesthood come to a dire pass and tragic situa- tion. The TRUE priesthood talked with God and opened not its ear to man. Thus does God show us that when His elect servants must look to man for advice - then are they in the bottom of the gorge and FINISHED! In its more detailed phase, the ear is t h e symbol of HEARING. Thus the RIGHT ear stands for the capacity to HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. THIS did Peter cut off. Had our Lord permitted it thus to remain, it would have signified that the church was to follow in the path CUT BY THE SWORD, and that His opponents WOULD NEVER HAVE RECEIVED (heard) H I S WORD. But the Gracious Lord of Life HEALED THE ERROR COMMITTED BY PETER--to the end that ALL MIGHT HEAR.... Thus in flaming spirit fire did God I N s c r o l l His 'signature' by the termination in 70 A. D. of the Aaronite priesthood, while t h e Church of Christ conquered the continent in 300 years without lift- ing a sword!

#3: Only to a widow-woman in Zarephath of Zidon was E l i j a h sent when the DROUGHT was over Israel 3 1/2 years. However, part of that time he spent at the "brook Cherith" - where the ravens brot him bread and flesh morning and evening . . . Rather

than answer this tersely by indicating a highlight or two, I believe it better to consider it more closely:

Ahab, king of Israel had married Jezebel a foreign (Phoenician) princess. She would not bow to Yahweh, but massacred the priests of the Lord, instituting a licentious form of idolatry on a national scale. From her table did the 450 priests of Baal get their living as well as the 400 priests of the groves. Finally Elijah the Tishbite was THE remaining prophet of the Lord, and he had to flee for his life after he had informed king Ahab that there should be no rain in the land UNTIL, AND ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF ELIJAH. At the brook Cherith he was sustained by the ravens an unspecified period of time, although 1 Kgs 18:1 seems to indicate that it may have been 6 months or more. Then God commanded him to go to Zarephath of Zidon where a widow-woman would sustain him. At the conclusion of 3 1/2 years he was sent to see king Ahab. That meeting resulted in the glorious episode on Mount Carmel when fire from the Lord descended from heaven and consumed the offering dedicated unto Yahweh. THEN were the prophets of Baal slain; THEN came an abundance of rain; THEN mounted the fury of Jezebel; THEN came her judgment and doom. NOW let us look to the language of God Almighty!

ISRAEL was a type of Christendom; AHAB - their king tells us about A CERTAIN PHASE of Christendom, or we might say its RULING SPIRIT. AHAB is the name of one who LOOKS LIKE his father. He was the son of OMRI which means chastised and taught by God. But since he is MARRIED unto the vile Jezebel, we know that he may look like his father yet is but a fake. The double, or stressed phase of this hoaxery is shown us by the name of Jezebel which means UNmarried (yet she did marry.) Christendom receives the counterfeit Ahab who takes into his bosom FOREIGN IDOLATRY (Jezebel) who remains UNwed to the spirit of Christ. This woman (type of the organized and idolatrous church), lives for self and massacres the TRUE servants of God. Because of this hideous sin, Israel receives no rain throughout a 3 1/2 year period. Rain is REFRESHMENT for the earth that it may bring forth and yield fruit. It bespeaks the SOUL-REFRESHING from Heaven which leads to the spiritually abundant life for the church-membership.

ELIJAH means Yahweh's Strength, or, YAHWEH REIGNS (by virtue of His strength). Thus he depicts THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST

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on earth dealing with idolatrous and apostate Israel thruout a period of 1260 years (360 x 3 1/2). Here we see Him telling the counterfeit head of Christendom (in substance): "Because you have departed from me to serve the lusts of the flesh, toting idols to institute idolatry, killing off my true servants who oppose your sin, THERE SHALL BE NO MORE BLESSINGS FROM ON HIGH - UNTIL THE DAY I CHOOSE!"

---Whereupon God's Spirit 'hid itself' in the gorge of Cherith, where for some time it was fed by the ravens... How can the Spirit of God be fed? "MY MEAT IS TO DO THE WILL OF HIM WHO SENT ME" - Jesus. Whereby we see that our feeding of God is by doing of His will. Here then, for a prolonged time, His Spirit is (was) hid from the people in the gorge of emotionalism (the 'cutting' by the WATERS of Cherith). Ravens (meaning black) brot him unclean food. And they are noted for the habit of picking out the eyes of the victim. (We might even reflect on the word 'Chemarim' - closely allied to Cherith. In the Hebrew it referred to THOSE IN BLACK - worshippers of false gods.) Here, then, the only food given the Spirit of our Lord was meat by the UNCLEAN, brot by the BLACK ONES - who take out the eyes of their victims. . . .

BUT GO NOW TO ZAREPHATH, I HAVE COMMANDED A WIDOW-WOMAN THERE TO SUSTAIN THEE: IN ZIDON SHALL YOUR BREAD BE FOUND--thus came the voice from the THRONE-room. . . .

The SOUL-refreshing from the rut of ceremonialism and to m-foolery was petering out: fresh fields had to be tapped. Zidon means FISHERY and Zarephath is the SMELTING PLACE or refinery. THERE, but a handful of meal and a little cruse of oil were blessed, and multiplied to last more than two years. Zidon is Christendom's MISSIONARY FIELD (fishery), while Zarephath is the crucible of TRIAL AND TESTING (therein) - which turns out the pure silver and gold. Here the widow woman (church of Christ robbed of her husband's presence) should minister to the needs of our Lord. BACK thru the recorded pages we find the black ones picking the eyes of their victims, squabbling within and fighting without unto the GREAT SCHISM. Then we perceive the MISSIONARY WAVE rising and taking on volume: the meal and oil was being blessed. . . . "For, it was in 1170 A D that Peter Waldo shone brilliantly on the church horizon, bringing PURITY OF LIFE to the consciousness of that church age.

He was followed by the immortal Francis of Assisi--whose personal work covered the period of 1182-1226. He was the great apostle of REPENTANCE to the then immoral age. So great was his devotion to the CROSS OF CHRIST that marks of the stigmata became a reality in his body. Those men -- especially Saint Francis - and those who carried on the work of bringing a VIRGIN CONSCIOUSNESS to the people, brot about the only wave of true revival during the age of the Roman Catholic supremacy. Their work led to the founding of many orders, preaching REPENTANCE; caring for the sick, living lives of austerity and absolute purity," (from "10 Prophetic Virgins"). - - - THUS we behold the MISSIONARY WAVE bringing forth its shining metal well into the 16th century when PROTESTANTISM had its inception. For 1260 years had Christendom known no soul-refreshment from Heaven. THEN stood Elijah at the REPAIRED altar of God - with the ALL-SUFFICIENT SACRIFICE PLACED - according to the word of God. "FILL FOUR BARRELS OF WATER AND POUR THEM ON. REPEAT. YET DO IT AGAIN! THEN fell the fire from Heaven; THEN rolled up the clouds from the sea and the heavens were black with rain; THEN were slain the prophets of Baal at the Brook Kishon (the "wending" eras of time). "MAKE HASTE, Ahab, to get thee down from Carmel" ("the garden planted BY GOD"). THEN rose the fury of Jezebel's spirit, swearing vengeance on the servants of God. THEN flowed the blood of martyrs to Christ that 'Jezebel's' fame might be written in red. ("And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.")

The FOUR filled barrels of water stand for the 4 centuries of time, destined to overflow the TRUE OFFERING unto God: 4 centuries of Protestantism WHILE GOD IS WORSHIPPED IN THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH - freed from ceremonial claptrap; THRICE filled speaks for body, soul and spirit thru THE WORD OF GOD'S PRIESTHOOD. To Israel of Elijah's day it was the number of fruitfulness unto the entire house of Jacob. The encircling ditch which encompassed the offering (for the house of Jacob) was large enuf to hold 2 measures of seed. When we consider the required size of the altar, we realize that the "measures" must have been the barrel-measure (lethech) which contained about 40 gallons. The run-up is: 3 cabs = 1 hin, 2 hins = 1 seah; 3 seahs = 1 ephah and 5 ephahs in 1 letech. Thus the ditch would have held about 180 cabs - of water with which it was later filled. Since 2 cabs were considered a man's daily need of water (about 7 imperial

pints), the 180 cabs would net 90 day-measures. This we multiply by 10 for its next prophetic 'power', yielding 900 days (years) for the nation. Chronologers seem to agree that the event on Carmel was about 868 B.C., subtracted from the time of Calvary's sacrifice, netting about an even 900 years. THIS THE FIRE OF GOD CONSUMED PRECISELY AS FORESHADOWED IN TIME BY THE PROPHETIC SPIRIT OF YAHWEH ON CARMEL'S AWE-SOME DAY!

SURELY to the 'widow-woman' was Elijah sent; SURELY of a great Truth did speak the God-man when He stressed for the ears to come that episode so frot with spirit-prophecy for the age then dawning. SURELY you do well to take stock of its TRUTH, and measure the worth of the bullock slain for you. THEN look to the camp of the prophets you hear -- THAT YOUR SOUL MAY REJOICE IN THE TRUTH OF HIS SPIRIT.

S A T A N I C D O C T R I N E S !

"We had opportunity to talk with 'Jehovah's Witnesses' and they differ in their idea about being 'born again', saying, that is when we enter into eternity. Then also about the resurrection of the unrighteous dead; their clinching verse they gave us was Jer 51:39 - they will sleep a perpetual sleep (the wicked) and will never be raised up for judgment..... Is it out of place to ask you about this theory of the resurrection? --- Andrew S."

I concede that ALL who devote their time to the dissemination of God's Word ARE DOING A GOOD WORK - regardless of their church or the label they wear. Therefore, I am never keen about dealing with such issues; neither would I were it not for TRUTH taking precedence over both sentiment and ethics (according to man). . .

(1) As to being 'born again' referring to the time or event of "entering eternity" - it is not often that I come across something

both so absurd and utterly puerile - as well as in flat contradiction to the clear-cut statement of our Lord! (Yet I suppose THAT should be expected from the J W group; for, assuredly there are few cults on earth today so utterly oblivious to the words of our Lord, and who so brazenly contort the Word of God as do that sect.) First, may I suggest (for I teach that our God was AND IS, HONEST) that IF our Lord had meant it as above, He would have simply stated: "Verily, verily I say unto thee except a man D I E he cannot see the kingdom of God!" (indeed, THIS is the era of learning!) And may I suggest again that on numerous occasions has God promised the 'kingdom' to His people HERE ON EARTH - AND THAT WITHOUT DYING! (But why should they bother about SCRIPTURE and the WORDS OF OUR LORD? Isn't it simpler to open one's mouth wide and let the north wind whistle thru empty skull bones?) But since the above is based on REASON, perhaps some of you would prefer to see HIS WORD. Very well. " (if) I HAVE TOLD YOU EARTHLY THINGS, and you believe not, HOW shall you believe IF I tell you of heavenly things" (-Jesus, Jhn 3:12). Now, it was of the NEW BIRTH that Jesus had been speaking. And this - in the clearest of words He labelled EARTHLY things: the things that transpire here on earth IN THE LIFE OF INDIVIDUALS!--- Wherefore it is stated above that a teaching so utterly puerile and contrary to the clearest of our Lord's words IS SELDOM FOUND!

(2) This teaching, especially inasmuch as it is based on Jer 51:39, falls largely into the same category of inanity and Scripture-contortionism. . . . The 51st ch of Jr IN ITS ENTIRETY - 64 verses - DEALS WITH BABYLON. It opens with Babylon and closes with Babylon, setting forth the utter spoilation thereof and its permanent destruction. "They shall roar together like lions; they shall yell as lions' whelps. In their heat I will make their feasts, and I will make them drunken, that they may rejoice, and sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, saith the Lord. I will bring them down like lambs to the slaughter, like rams with goats." (-Jer 51:38-39-40.) The central portion of the above, those scripture-contortionists claim to mean that the wicked die and that is their permanent end! . . . Even a child can perceive that He specifies 'Babylon.' But IF 'Babylon' does not mean Babylon but means the wicked people, then equally does 'Jerusalem' not mean Jerusalem. By which process of reasoning we arrive at the inevitable conclusion that God has never spoken about either Jerusalem or Babylon, but only about good and bad

people! In the light of which it is very remarkable that Jerusalem perished according to the word of the Lord (instead of leaving the city standing but killing off all good people on earth); likewise -- that BABYLON "perished for the eon" and the Babylonians therewith (according to His precise word). Observe how in the beginning of v 39 He says that IN THE HEAT OF THEIR EGO THEY WOULD FEAST and GET DRUNK - to the end that they should sleep perpetually. And this He follows up immediately by explaining that it would be to the end they should be brot down to the slaughter like lambs. Turn now to the pages of history, or even to Daniel 5 where you will find the clear account of how the Babylonian king made a great feast and also got well "soused up." THEN appeared the writing on the wall; - THEN in that very night was Belshazzar slain and Darius the Median took the Kingdom. Babylon has never been since! Nor ever shall be - says God. But of course it is simpler for cultists to postulate their ideas boldly rather than to be concerned over a hundred contradicting scriptures. . . . All which goes to underscore the Truth I so frequently raise: IF we concede any mortal the right to INTERPRET Scripture (contrary to reason and its apparent meaning, THEN THERE BECOMES NO LIMIT TO THE AMOUNT OF SECTS, CULTS, DIVISIONS AND TWADDLE! Let God explain His own word - IF 'interpretation' it needs. But expect not our clergy to agree to that, IF they did they would all have to fold up!

NAAMAN THE LEPER: Here we will take into consideration the miraculous healing of Naaman the Syrian. . . The account is found in 2nd Kings, 5th ch. And was also referred to by our Lord who calls our attention to the fact that none of the lepers in Israel was healed in the days of Elisha! Over this simple statement of fact were His countrymen enraged - and sought to kill Him!

It is quite apparent that God's power was very ample to cleanse all the lepers in Israel, so WHY DIDN'T HE? WHY was Naaman the Syrian - an enemy of Israel - singled out for His mercy? In the underscored words above rests the first KEY: HOW TO DEAL WITH THE ENEMY - that enemy which Naaman typified. To understand that - as well as the entire lesson, we must understand the meaning of the names used. First, Naaman was a SYRIAN and the commander of the army under the king. SYRIA means highlands while Naaman means pleasantness. THIS links with the selfsame Truth as shown us by Jacob's sojourn in Padan

Aram (field of the HEIGHTS) where he toiled for wives and cattle. Canaan means a LOWland - for the "MEEK" of the earth. In contrast to which we find the HEIGHTS (such as Syria). Wherefore, Naaman the SYRIAN, being a leper was God's way of showing us the DEFILEMENT and the UNCLEANNESS of the gentiles' way of life; to show Israel that their humble way of life IN HIS STATUTES maintained them in His grace, while THE HIGH LIVING after the gentile manner became defilement and UNcleanness in His sight. THIS fact He clinched for us by the man's name meaning PLEASANTNESS (pleasures). Clearly are we told that the devil is the "prince of this world." The "king of Syria" thus becomes a type of the Overlord of this world's 'HEIGHTS.' While his general: PLEASURES AND HIGH LIVING - in command of the entire gentile host, we are shown to be an abominable pollution in the sight of God.

Now to continue with the prophetic drama wrot by the hand of God. The Syrians had made forays into Israel and had carried away a maid who "waited on Naaman's wife." And she had lamented the fact that her master was not with "the prophet in Samaria for he would recover him of his leprosy." Here the maiden from Israel typifies the LIGHT and TRUTH of God which "waits on the soul (wife) of the unclean pleasure-seeker." 'LOOK' speaks the Truth by the mouth of His chosen, 'IF YOU WERE IN THE WATCH-TOWER (= Samaria), GOD'S DELIVERANCE (= Elisha) COULD MAKE YOU CLEAN!' The watch-tower or HIGH-LOOKOUT- typifies the place of God. And THAT has and still is His message unto the sinner: DRAW NIGH UNTO ME - THAT MY SPIRIT MAY MAKE YOU WHOLE, FREEING YOU ENTIRELY FROM THE POLLUTIONS OF THE WORLD!

The account continues that Naaman went to Samaria, and eventually to the door of the house of Elisha. He became wroth at the instructions to dip 7 times in the waters of Jordan. JORDAN means the DESCENDER, while water represents SOUL. SEVEN: the number of His church. Is it not always thus that the UNclean gets enraged when told that there is no cleansing nor 'salvation' - except thru the DOWNSTREAMING, SOUL-POWER FUNCTIONING THRU HIS CHURCH? (The downstreaming power of God is properly typified by FIRE. But, since it functions thru His CHOS-EN, that involves their soul: hence the WATERS of Jordan.)..... Yet his servants persuaded him - to the end that Naaman the leper WAS FULLY CLEANSED.

IF you will read the entire account you will see how Elisha's footman - GEHAZI - gave way to greed. The prophet would have no particle of the riches offered by Naaman. Elisha had been schooled in the way of holiness, refusing all contamination with the world. But Gehazi thot differently. So he went after Naaman to somewhat relieve him. . . In the closing verse we are shown God's judgment: "Therefore, the leprosy of Naaman shall cleave unto you and to your seed into the eon. . . And he went out from his presence a leper -- white as snow."

GEHAZI means "the VALLEY of vision." The TRUE vision of God and His Truth comes on the MOUNTAIN-TOP. Thus we are shown thru the name of GEHAZI that when His servants (footmen) lose their exalted vision, (having descended into the VALLEY of understanding) reaching out for the riches of this world thru a contact with the unclean (ALL gentiles were unclean under the Mosaic Law), then do such enter into the selfsame UNcleanness - tho previously servants. (There is considerably more Spirit-Truth veiled in this account, yet Christendom at large is not ready to receive it. So I shall merely take a look at its prophecy - BEING GOD'S IMPRIMATUR - attesting its Truth:

Under a pretext, Gehazi asked of Naaman, "A talant of silver and two changes of garment." But Naaman was so full of gratitude he induced him to accept two talents. In old testament times, there were 3000 shekels of silver to the talent (weighing about 90 lbs.) He asked for ONE (= LIFE), but received TWO (=division) because his heart was not right with God. And the two talents amounted to 6000 shekels: that is SIX THOUSAND YEARS in the pay of Syria's Overlord! THAT covers precisely this week of God's manifestation to man - while in bondage to the enemy! Again He asked for "2 changes of raiment," and received them. As the garment is a covering for the physical man, so similarly is the body a sheath for the indwelling SPIRIT. Interpenetrating the body, and as a finer garment for the spirit - IS THE HUMAN SOUL. We know that the physical body perishes at death (because of SIN - said God). While "the SOUL that sinneth - it shall DIE". Thereby has God told man that all 'Gehazis' which have sold themselves to the devil for this entire 'week' (6000 years), shall LOSE BOTH THEIR BODY AND SOUL: hence their need of "TWO changes of raiment"!